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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method in a data processing system for managing
2   data in a network data processing system, the method
3   comprising:
4   receiving a packet containing data associated with
5   content;
6   determining whether the packet is enabled for
7   content distribution by examining the data packet; and
8   responsive to the packet being enabled for content
9   distribution, distributing the content in response to a
10 request for the content without requiring a validity
11 check.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the content is a Web
2   page.

1   3.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2   responsive to an absence of an enablement for
3   content distribution, performing a validity check on the
4   content in response to a request for the content.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the data processing
2   system is one of a cache for Web content or a proxy
3   server.

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1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein an indicator in the
2   packet is used for determining whether the content is
3   enabled for content distribution.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the indicator is
2   located in a header of the packet.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the packet is
2   transmitted using a hypertext transfer protocol.

1   8.   A method in a data processing system for caching
2   content, the method comprising:
3   receiving a data packet containing content and
4   control information;
5   caching the content and control information;
6   responsive to a request from a requestor for the
7   content, determining whether a particular indicator is
8   present; and
9   responsive to a determination that the particular
10   indicator is present, sending the content to the
11   requestor without performing a validity check.

1   9.   The method of claim 8, wherein the indicator
2   identifies the content as being content distribution
3   capable.

1   10.   The method of claim 8 further comprising:

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2   responsive to a determination that the particular

3 indicator is absent, performing the validity check using

4 the control information.

1 11. The method of claim 8, wherein the content is one of

2 a Web page, an audio file, a text file, a program, or a

3 video file.

1 12. The method of claim 8, wherein the control

2 information follows a hypertext transfer protocol.

1 13. A method in a data processing system for managing

2 content, the method comprising:

3   receiving a request for content from a node;

4   adding an indicator and control information used to

5 cache the content in a header of a data packet, wherein

6 the indicator is used by an enabled node to distribute

7 the content without performing a validity check on the

8 content;

9   placing the content into the data packet; and

10   transmitting the data packet to the node.

1 14. A data processing system comprising:

2   a bus system;

3   a communications unit connected to the bus system;

4   a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the

5 memory includes a set of instructions; and

6   a processing unit connected to the bus system,

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7   wherein the processing unit executes the set of

8   instructions to receive a packet containing data

9   associated with content; determine whether the packet is

10   enabled for content distribution by examining the data

11   packet; and distribute the content in response to a

12   request for the content without requiring a validity

13   check in response to the packet being enabled for content

14   distribution.

1   15.   A data processing system comprising:

2   a bus system;

3   a communications unit connected to the bus system;

4   a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the

5   memory includes a set of instructions; and

6   a processing unit connected to the bus system,

7   wherein the processing unit executes the set of

8   instructions to receive a data packet containing content

9   and control information; cache the content and control

10   information; determine whether a particular indicator is

11   present in response to a request from a requestor for the

12   content; and send the content to the requestor without

13   performing a validity check in response to a

14   determination that the particular indicator is present.

1   16.   A data processing system comprising:

2   a bus system;

3   a communications unit connected to the bus system;

4   a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the

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5   memory includes a set of instructions; and

6   a processing unit connected to the bus system,

7   wherein the processing unit executes the set of

8   instructions to receive a request for content from a

9   node; add an indicator and control information used to

10 cache the content in a header of a data packet in which

11 the indicator is used by an enabled node to distribute

12 the content without performing a validity check on the

13 content; place the content into the data packet; and

14 transmit the data packet to the node.

1   17. A data processing system for managing data in a

2   network data processing system, the data processing

3   system comprising:

4   receiving means for receiving a packet containing

5   data associated with content;

6   determining means for determining whether the packet

7   is enabled for content distribution by examining the data

8   packet; and

9   distributing means, responsive to the packet being

10 enabled for content distribution, for distributing the

11 content in response to a request for the content without

12 requiring a validity check.

1   18. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein the

2   content is a Web page.

1   19. The data processing system of claim 17 further

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2 comprising:

3   performing means, responsive to an absence of an

4 enablement for content distribution, for performing a

5 validity check on the content in response to a request

6 for the content.

1 20. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein the

2 data processing system is one of a cache for Web content

3 or a proxy server.

1 21. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein an

2 indicator in the packet is used for determining whether

3 the content is enabled for content distribution.

1 22. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein the

2 indicator is located in a header of the packet.

1 23. The data processing system of claim 17, wherein the

2 packet is transmitted using a hypertext transfer

3 protocol.

1 24. A data processing system for caching content, the

2 data processing system comprising:

3   receiving means for receiving a data packet

4 containing content and control information;

5   caching means for caching the content and control

6 information;

7   determining means, responsive to a request from a

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8 requestor for the content, for determining whether a

9 particular indicator is present; and

10   sending means, responsive to a determination that

11 the particular indicator is present, for sending the

12 content to the requestor without performing a validity

13 check.

1 25. The data processing system of claim 24, wherein the

2 indicator identifies the content as being content

3 distribution capable.

1 26. The data processing system of claim 24 further

2 comprising:

3   performing means, responsive to a determination that

4 the particular indicator is absent, for performing the

5 validity check using the control information.

1 27. The data processing system of claim 24, wherein the

2 content is one of a Web page, an audio file, a text file,

3 a program, or a video file.

1 28. The data processing system of claim 24, wherein the

2 control information follows a hypertext transfer

3 protocol.

1 29. A data processing system for managing content, the

2 data processing system comprising:

3   receiving means for receiving a request for content

4 from a node;

5   adding means for adding an indicator and control

6 information used to cache the content in a header of a

7 data packet, wherein the indicator is used by an enabled

8 node to distribute the content without performing a

9 validity check on the content;

10   placing means for placing the content into the data

11 packet; and

12   transmitting means for transmitting the data packet

13 to the node.

1 30. A computer program product for managing data in a

2 network data processing system, the computer program

3 product comprising:

4   first instructions for receiving a packet containing

5 data associated with content;

6   second instructions for determining whether the

7 packet is enabled for content distribution by examining

8 the data packet; and

9   third instructions, responsive to the packet being

10 enabled for content distribution, for distributing the

11 content in response to a request for the content without

12 requiring a validity check.

1 31. A computer program product in a data processing

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2 system for caching content, the computer program product

3 comprising:

4   first instructions for receiving a data packet

5 containing content and control information;

6   second instructions for caching the content and

7 control information;

8   third instructions, responsive to a request from a

9 requestor for the content, for determining whether a

10 particular indicator is present; and

11   fourth instructions, responsive to a determination

12 that the particular indicator is present, for sending the

13 content to the requestor without performing a validity

14 check.

1 32.   A computer program product for managing content, the

2 computer program product comprising:

3   first instructions for receiving a request for

4 content from a node;

5   second instructions for adding an indicator and

6 control information used to cache the content in a header

7 of a data packet, wherein the indicator is used by an

8 enabled node to distribute the content without performing

9 a validity check on the content;

10   third instructions for placing the content into the

11 data packet; and

12   fourth instructions for transmitting the data packet

13 to the node.